

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A solid state image pickup device being provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels disposed in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, ~~and~~ a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages comprising:

CI
cont
a timing pulse generator portion for generating at least more than one pulse signal type from among four pulse signals which are; a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion, and

a switch circuit for selectively replacing all of at least one type of ~~alternatively selecting between~~ pulse signals of said timing pulse generator ~~or~~ with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level and wherein the switch circuit selection is not dependent upon signals from the timing pulse generator.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for driving the horizontal read-out of a solid state image pickup device provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, ~~and~~ a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages, wherein

in a first mode, a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion are selectively supplied to said solid state image pickup device,

in a second mode, selectively ~~changing at least one pulse signal out of the first, the second, the third and the fourth pulse signals to~~ replacing all of the drive pulse signals with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level and wherein the selective changing of at least one pulse signal replacement of the drive pulse signals is performed independently from any of the pulse signals.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for driving the horizontal read-out of a solid state image pickup device provided with a plurality of photoelectric converter portions being composed of a plurality of pixels in a row, and a plurality of charge transfer portions for

transferring the charges generated in respective rows of pixels in the plurality of photoelectric converter portions, wherein,

a switch circuit selects between two modes, comprising:

a first mode in which the switch circuit passes drive pulses generated by a pulse generator to the charge transfer portions, or

a second mode in which the switch circuit replaces all of the drive pulses with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level, wherein the switch over is performed independently from signals of the pulse generator.

*C1
cancel*
~~in a first mode, driving pulses from a pulse generator are supplied to all charge transfer portions, and in a second mode, driving pulses to be supplied to at least one of said plurality of charge transfer portions are switched over to either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level and wherein the switching over is performed independently from signals of the pulse generator.~~

Please add the following new claim:

4. (New) The solid state image pickup device of claim 1, wherein all of the drive pulse signals are replaced.
